

## EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

May 28, 2004

Paul Nam, President  
Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers  
19863 Portal Plaza  
Cupertino CA 95014  
(408) 446 - 3745  
email: vocinam@yahoo.com

Chairman Paul Morabito  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, #100  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Attn: Mary Small

I am writing in support of grant funding for improvements to the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART) alignment in the Mid peninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve (ECdM). Funds would go toward the construction of a new contouring trail alignment of the BART through redwood forest habitat parallel with Hwy 35 where currently no appropriate multi-use access exists. Funds would also go towards the construction of the only formal staging area for this popular preserve.

There is a real need for a developed staging area in this preserve to develop equitable access to the BART in this area. Currently the Cal Trans owned and maintained Skeggs Point Overlook parking area receives the majority of visitors to the preserve. Cal Trans is cooperative and has not made formal complaint to the MROSD about the impact to this scenic overlook. This overlook predates the ECdM preserve. Construction of a formal staging area on the preserve would take significant pressure off this area and benefit the casual highway visitors to the overlook that it was originally created for.

Additionally a formal preserve staging area would provide the MROSD with a focal point portal to the preserve for interpretive materials and trails. This staging area is adjacent to new patrol infrastructure incorporating ATV's for patrol and rescue services. The staging area would help enforcement and protection of habitat.

The BART alignment through the preserve will be a spectacular section of contouring trail and a welcome addition to the trail inventory. The trail system in ECdM has been a source of controversy resulting from the legacy of logging trails and their popularity with mountain cyclists sometimes perceived as an incompatible use with conservation values. Over the nearly two decades since the creation of this preserve the MROSD has conscientiously wrought continual improvements to the trail system towards mitigating illegal trail use, improving the drainage of patrol roads, and enforcing seasonal closures and regulations. The new Watershed Protection Program, an ambitious 3 year road and trail prism improvement plan to mitigate siltation compromising steelhead spawning habitat downstream names the BART alignment through the preserve as a part of this important conservation program. The funding of this grant application will help this program succeed.

The proposed staging area will provide the preserve with an appropriate place to post important interpretive signage for the education of visitors to the needs of wildlife habitat and proper trail etiquette. The BART alignment through the area will provide the public with a beautiful trail through this recovering third growth redwood forest habitat. This trail will provide casual users with an integral section of a primary trail loop in an envisioned stacked loop trail system. As president of ROMP, representing hundreds of cyclists in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, I recommend approving grant funding for the ECdM preserve.

Sincerely,



Paul Nam, president ROMP

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JUN 01 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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